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THE SPEECH OF WILLIAM EARL OF CRAWFURD,

President to the Parliament of

SCOTLAND,

The twenty second Day of *April*, 1690.

Edinburgh, Printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, 1690.

392

THE

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CRAWFURD

To

SCOTLAND;

The twenty second [illegible] 1679.

The Speech of William Earl of Crawfurd, President to the Parliament of Scotland, the 22d of April, 1690.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I May say with *Nehemiah*, to the Nobles, Rulers, and rest of this Honourable Assembly; *The work before us is great, Let us not be separated upon the Wall one far from another, and our God will do for us.* Our Religion, Church-Government, Publick Safety, Laws, and Liberties, are all at Stake; and the Enemy is watching for our halting in our endeavours, for every one of them: Yet if God countenance us, so that Duty be made plain, and we be helped to follow it, we are under the Protection of a Prince, who is a great Judge where our True Interest lyes, and I am convinced, will frankly deal to us, whatever upon a just Claim, we shall apply for.

His Majesties Printed Instructions for last Session, are plain evidences of His tender Regard of His People, and contain greater Condescensions, than we have seen, or read of, in the Reigns of any of our Kings, for many Ages: But I trust this new Dyet, will compleat that Tranquillity, which we so impatiently wish and wait for: And that we shall be engaged to say of His Majesty, as the Queen of *Sheba* did of *Solomon*; *Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the Throne, because the Lord loved us, therefore made he thee King to do Judgment and Justice.*

It were a suitable Return to His Majesty, for the great things He hath done for us, to repose an intire Trust in Him, and evidence a true Zeal for His Service; which in this Critical time, as it would be most satisfying, and engaging to so generous a Prince; So it would be of notable advantage to His, and our Affairs.

Were it not a seasonable part to guard against Prejudices towards one another, and when all is at Stake, to part with trivial Differences, (our Enemies only reaping advantage by them) and to employ our selves to the outmost, for the Settlement of our Church, the Defence of the Kingdom, and the enacting of other good Laws, now under our Consideration: That we may comfortably and fully partake, of the wonderful Deliverance God hath wrought for us?

If in our last Session we had begun at the House of God, other things might have framed better in our hands; hath not the Church suffered sadly by our Differences? and have not our delays made the Work more difficult? The Opposition at home, and Clamour abroad, had certainly been less, and many honest suffering Ministers ere now had been relieved of their Pinches, if a greater Dispatch had been made. But what if any remaining Obstacle should prove a real Disappointment in the Establishing of our Church, would not the blame be lodged at our own Door? Some are at the same Language that was spoke in *Haggai*'s days; *The time is not come that the Lord's House should be built:* To such I shall give

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the Prophets Answer, *Is it time for you to dwell in your Cieled Houses, and this House ly waste?*

We have occasion with *Ezra*, to bless the Lord God of our Fathers, that the stop is not at the King's Door, but that he hath put such a thing as this in his Heart, to Beautify his House with that Model, which shall be suited to the Inclinations of the People, which *I* trust will be squared to the Pattern that was shewed in the Mount, and not merely regulated by humane Policy.

We are threatned by a forraign Enemy, our Countrey is Infested at home, and the Kingdom sadly exposed to many great Inconveniencies; What should become of us, if His Majesty withdrew His special Protection, and we were left to the rage of our Enemies? Tho our Church were Settled to the greatest advantage, and our other Grievances likewise Redressed, the Nation cannot be safe, without a Supply, suitable to the present Exigency.

It is matter of heavy Regrate, that so many are Groaning under the Load of Forfeitures and Fines, and *His Majesty* willing to relieve them, and as yet no Issue put to those desireable Purposes.

May the Wisdom and Goodness of God, so Over-rule all our Counsels, that we be not Imposed upon by false Notions of things: Let neither Partiality on the one side, nor Passion on the other, either keep up former Differences, or give a rise to new ones, lest it be said of us, as was spoke by *Ezra* upon the like occasion, *And after all that is come upon us for our evil Deeds, and for our great Trespass, seing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such Deliverance as this, should we again break thy Commandments?*

What my Lord Commissioner spoke the other day, was delivered to such advantage, that any enlargment I could make on it, would be like a rash touch of a Pencil, by an unskilful hand, upon a compleat Picture; So *I* forbear every thing of that kind.

It is beyond Debate, that in this honourable Assembly, the Hearts of a great many are very warm to *His* Majesty, and that *His*, tho at a distance from us, is no less filled with Thoughts of Favour to us: So if the Result of our Counsels be not comfortable to our selves, and of National Advantage, I am afraid, the present opportunity of doing well, if neglected, shall prove a heavy Charge against us, in the Day of our Accounts.

But as the Lord's hand hath been eminently seen in every step of our late escape from Popery, and begun Reformation; So I trust the *Head*-stone shal be put on with *Shouting*, and we shall in the Issue be forced to acknowledge, *This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

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